

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 01006 231000Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----106562 231043Z /11

R 230935Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6337

S E C R E T JAKARTA 1006

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, MASS, ID

SUBJECT: U.S. REACTION TO NEWSPAPER CLOSURES AND STUDENT ARRESTS

1. WHEN QUERYING CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS) STAFFER LIM BIAN KIE ON BACKGROUND OF STUDENT ARRESTS AND NEWSPAPER CLOSURES (HIS COMMENTS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL), WE NOTED UNFAVORABLE IMPACT THESE STEPS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE IN U.S. WE POINTED OUT THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH VIGOR OF INDONESIAN PRESS AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ALL MALARI DETAINEES HAD BEEN RELEASED. ONE WEEK LATER NEWSPAPERS SHE HAD ADMIRE HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AND LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND SOME FORMER MALARI DETAINEES HAD BEEN ARRESTED, APPARENTLY WITHOUT WARRANT.

2. LIM ARGUED THAT SITUATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN FAR WORSE IF STUDENTS AND THEIR ALLIES HAD NOT BEEN PREEMPTED IN THIS MANNER. ALMOST AS DIGRESSIN, LIM NOTED THAT U.S. ATTITUDES HAD NOT ALWAYS BEEN WELL UNDERSTOOD BY GOI LEADRERS, WHO TENDED SEE OVERALL PATTERN IN IRS TAX RULING, DOE LNG DECISION AND DELAY IN PROCESSING F-5 PURCHASE REQUEST, WHICH LIM HIMSELF KNEW DID NOT EXIST. WE INTERJECTED THAT INFORMAL NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS ON F-5 WOULD COINCIDE WITH GOI CLAMP-DOWN ON PRESS AND STUDENTS AND THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SITUATION WERE DIFFERENT BEFORE FORMAL NOTI-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JAKART 01006 231000Z

FICATION MADE 20 DAYS LATER. LIM AGREED BUT STRESSED THAT USG SHOULD NOT PROTEST GOI ACTION AT THIS TIME SINCE THIS WOULD ONLY ADD TO SECURITY AUTHORITIES' DETERMINATIN TO TAKE HARD LINE AND TO GOI OFFICIALS' SUSPICIONS OF U.S. ATTITUDES.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO LOW KEY U.S. REACTION TO

RECENT GOI ACTIONS UNTIL WE HAVE BETTER IDEA OF POSSIBLE
DURATION OF DETENTIONS AND NEWSPAPER CLOSURES. AS DEPARTMENT
IS AWARE, SUCH ACTIONS HAVE IN PAST BEEN USED AS WARNINGS
ONLY AND LIFTED IN MATTER OF FEW DAYS. TOUGH PUBLIC
POSTURE ON OUR PART MIGHT AT THIS STAGE CAUSE GOI TO MAIN-
TAIN THEM IN EFFECT LONGER THAN ORIGINALLY INTENDED IN ORDER
NOT TO APPEAR TO BE CEDING TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE.

MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWSPAPERS, STUDENTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JAKART01006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-0838
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780135/aaaabcl.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d70125e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3732108
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. REACTION TO NEWSPAPER CLOSURES AND STUDENT ARRESTS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, MASS, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d70125e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014